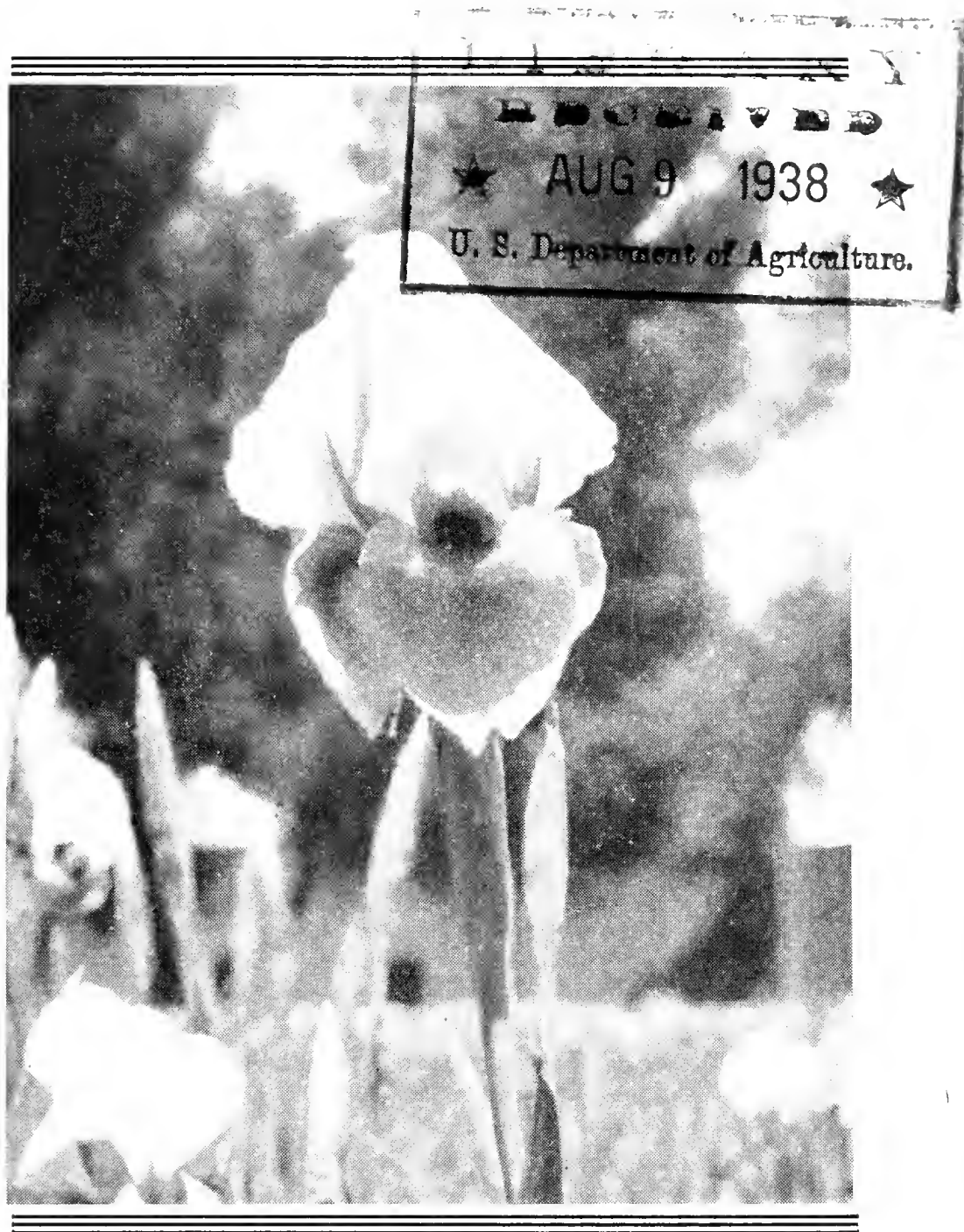


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ST. CLAIR RARE BULB GARDENS



IRIS LORTETII

(Copyright, John D. Whiting, Jerusalem)

*Bulbs from the Ends
of the Earth*

R.F.D. Box 2004

Richmond, California, U. S. A.



FOREWORD

We take pleasure in offering you the desirable and unusual plants described in the following catalogue.

St. Clair Rare Bulb Gardens specialize in hard-to-get plants, plants that are described and praised in magazine articles and horticultural books, but are seldom offered by dealers. At present, in addition to the plants listed in our catalogue, we are growing and testing some 500 others, plants either raised from imported seed or brought in under special permit from the U. S. Bureau of Plant Quarantine. Let us know if you are interested in any bulbous plant and have been unable to obtain it; we may have a few specimens for sale or be able to get it for you.

While our efforts are devoted primarily to the introduction of new plants that thrive in our mild Pacific slope climate with its dry summers, we offer a number of hardier genera, as well as some that require moisture in summer. All, however, should offer no difficulty if our simple cultural directions on page 11 are followed.

Our stock of these rarities is necessarily small, and early ordering will be desirable in order to avoid disappointment. All bulbs we send out are first class blooming size and are healthy specimens that should succeed with reasonable care.

MARGARET ST. CLAIR,

Member: California Horticultural Society.

RAYMOND ST. CLAIR, F. R. H. S.,

Member: South African Botanical Society,
American Amaryllis Society,
California Horticultural Society.

TERMS OF BUSINESS

Remittance in full must accompany orders as we cannot ship perishable bulbs C. O. D. We do not assume responsibility for the safe receipt of coins or currency, but stamps of low denominations are accepted for amounts of \$1.00 or under.

Postage. We prepay postage on all orders over \$2 within the United States. If your order is less, please add 25c extra for postage and handling.

Guarantee. We give no warranty, express or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness, or any other matter of any bulbs or plants we sell and we will not be responsible in any way for the crop. Any complaints, however, will be met with a spirit of fairness as it is our desire that you succeed in growing the choice plants we send you. Planting instructions are given on page 11 of this catalogue and if these are followed you should have no difficulty.

Delivery Dates. We acknowledge all orders on receipt and will inform you at that time of the approximate shipping date so that you may have the ground ready to receive the bulbs when they arrive. Shipping calendar on Page 12 shows the most favorable planting months. Unless you desire us to do otherwise, we shall ship between the indicated dates.

Substitutions. We do not substitute without permission. Please place your order early.

Quantities. Not less than 6 of a variety or species at the dozen rate. Less than that number will be priced at the rate of one tenth of the dozen price for each bulb; 50 or more take the hundred rate.

Sales Tax. California customers will kindly add 3% of the value of their orders to cover the Retail Sales Tax.

Bulbs from the Ends of the Earth

ALSTROEMERIA. Amaryllis family.

Alstroemeria Pelegrina alba. Ht. 12". **\$3 per 12**

"White Lily of the Incas." Chaste white flowers delicately marked apple green. The rich masses of bloom have a distinct Azalea look, but the flowers have a much better texture. Splendid in semi-shade. It lasts beautifully a week or more when cut. Free and long blooming. Chile.

The odd, tuberous roots should be planted with their crowns 6" below the surface in partial shade and in a well drained sandy soil rich in humus, where they should remain undisturbed for many years. Keep dry during the summer after the foliage dies down. Protect from frost with a mulch of leaves. Handle the roots carefully as they are fragile.

BABIANA. Iris family.

In South Africa called Babiaantje, or Baboon Flower. These gay little spring-flowering bulbs are of nearly every color or combination of colors and many of them are delightfully scented. Their attractive foliage is hairy and heavily plaited. In Africa, baboons devour the corms, hence the name.

They are reasonably hardy out of doors in California and may remain continuously in the ground, though they do better if lifted and replanted every second year. Full sun, and a dry baking in summer.

Babiana plicata. Ht. 4-6". **\$8.00 per 100** **\$1 per 12**

Big, wide-open lavender-blue flowers, throat creamy white, flecked with crimson. They have a delicious freesia-like fragrance, are early flowering, and low growing.

Babiana stricta. var. rubro-cyanea. Ht. 8". **\$1.75 per 12**

One of the most beautiful members of a beautiful genus. Flowers of intense, deep blue, with a large and glowing crimson center. Exquisite, and very scarce.

Babiana sulphurea. Ht. 12" **\$1.75 per 12**

The biggest of the Babianas, though still low growing. Of a delightfully fresh cream and yellow color, the flowers appear early and emit a pleasantly strong spicy fragrance.

BESSERA. Lily family.

Bessera elegans. 18-24" **\$2.75 per 12**

Mexican Coral Drops, newly introduced. Dainty bell-shaped flowers, orange red outside, creamy white with orange stripe inside, with blue stamens hang in graceful umbels. Their mode of growth suggests the burst of a small rocket, and the slim wiry stems are ideal for cutting. Blooms freely from July to late September.

Should be dug in winter except in milder climates. Needs water throughout the summer.

BULBS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

CHLIDANTHUS. Amaryllis family.

Chlidanthus fragrans. Ht. 12-15"

\$2.50 per 12

An excellent summer blooming plant from the Andes. Flowers are bright yellow trumpet-shaped, resembling an Amaryllis in form. Has a strong and pleasant fragrance, and cuts well. Bulbs must be kept dry during winter, and protected from frost.

CYRTANTHUS. Amaryllis family.

Cyrtanthus lutescens. Ht. 15".

\$2.50 per 12

Ifafa Lily. The plant bears numerous bright yellow tubular flowers. They are attractively exotic, and possess the added merit of a narcissus-like fragrance. Succeeds best in a sunny and moist but well drained situation. Nearly evergreen, but hardy in California. Very useful for cutting as they have a long blooming season.

GLADIOLUS. Iris family.

Gladiolus tristis hybrids. Ht. 1½-3 ft.

\$1.75 per 12

Deliciously night-fragrant flowers of a creamy white. The segments are more pointed and the flowers open rather wider than those of the usual garden hybrids. Early spring blooming, and hence useful for pot culture indoors. Needs summer drought. South Africa.

IRIS. Iris family.

This elegant genus needs no introduction or praise. Those, however, who have grown only the tall bearded "German" Irises will be pleasantly astonished at the perfection of form and the purity of color of the wild species which are offered below.

Iris Hoogiana. Regelia Section. Ht. 2-3 ft.

50c each

The large, clear blue flowers have a masterly grace and smoothness of color, with a conspicuous golden beard to set off the clear azure of the standards and falls. Rightly does the late W. R. Dykes call this distinguished Iris "the most aristocratic of all Irises." It comes from Turkestan in Central Asia. Full sun, lime in the soil, and summer drought are its simple cultural requirements.

Iris innominata. Apogon Section. Ht. 10".

50c each

An Oregon native. Pleasantly ruffled flowers in tones of yellow, ranging from cream to the deepest golden orange, with darker veins of brown or purple. Excellent for cutting. Light shade and lime free soil. A charming companion for Iris tenax.

Iris Lortetii. Oncocyclus section. Ht. 9-12".

\$4 each

The connoisseur's Iris; rarest of a rare section, and called by Mr. Dykes "one of the most beautiful of all Irises," with "weird and wonderful flowers." The blossoms are large, with huge creamy-white standards veined red-purple, and smaller incurved falls with a large bright plum blotch. The color is reminiscent of whipped cream and luscious crushed raspberries—a rich subtle beauty. From the southern slopes of Lebanon. Stock extremely limited. Plant in full sun, with sharp drainage in well-limed soil. Absolute summer drought. Do not cultivate.

Iris ruthenica. Apogon Section. Ht. 8".

50c each

A most distinct little Iris hailing from Transylvania (traditional home of the Vampire), from the Altai region, from Turkestan, and from parts of China. The falls which extend horizontally are charmingly veined dark blue-purple on a white ground. The stands are deep blue-purple, while the large crests of the style



IXIA BLOEM ERF HYBRIDS
(See page 6)

IRIS (Cont.)

branches are purple-red. They are attractive for the rock garden or the front of a border, and succeed in any good garden soil if kept fairly moist in spring and early summer.

Iris tenax. Apogon section. Ht. 12-15". **25c each**

Perhaps the best of the lovely Californian Irises. The color ranges from light pearl gray to a deep and satisfying wine violet. A bouquet of these blooms, varied in color but alike in shape, is completely delightful. Remarkably pleasing; one of our favorites. Light shade and lime free soil. Assorted colors.

Iris unguicularis. (Syn. **stylosa**). Apogon section. Ht. 8-12". **25c ea.**

Bright lilac flowers, enchantingly veined and exhaling a soft, spring-like fragrance, open in close succession from November to March in congenial climates. Cut in bud and arranged in low bowls, they are delightful. Algiers.

IXIA. Iris family.

Ixias are gaining a deserved popularity as late spring bulbs. The beautiful hybrids and varieties listed below exhibit a wide color range and are of the easiest culture. They cut well; buds open in water in succession, and the individual flowers are long lasting.

BULBS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

IXIA (Cont.)

The bulbs increase rapidly. South Africa.

They are hardy in a normal California winter, and will even come through a more severe winter if planted late and well mulched with litter. Full sun.

Ixia azurea. Ht. 12".

\$1 per 12

Beautiful clear blue flowers with a purple center appear in a long raceme in June. New and rare. A charming species that appears to be hardy.

Ixia incarnata. Ht. 18-24".

\$1.75 per 12

Newly introduced from Africa. Delicious Freesia scent from the slender tubular pale blue flowers. A graceful and slender plant, good for cutting, with flowers which do not close at night as do those of other Ixias.

Ixia viridiflora. Ht. 15".

\$3 per 12

The rarest of all Ixias, and the oddest. Light green flowers with a blue-black center open in June. This is a very famous species, but it is rare even in nature. A surprising and beautiful flower that requires a sunny situation.

Ixia Bloem Erf. Ht. 4-5 ft.

\$7 per 100

\$1 per 12

New hybrids from South Africa. The blossoms are softly opalescent in tones of blue and pink and are borne in racemes of 20-40 flowers with several smaller branches below. An excellent plant that cuts beautifully and lasts very well in water. Gives an airy grace to flower arrangements.

Ixia, named hybrids. Ht. 12-24".

\$6 per 100

\$1 per 12

A splendid race of named hybrids from the Netherlands. Tall and sturdy, they are striking in the border and ideal for cutting.

Bridesmaid. Large globular white flowers, crimson center, very free flowering.

Bucephalus major. (Syn. **Hector**). Beautiful, rich crimson-claret color. Extra fine.

Conqueror. Orange-red, inside deep yellow. A showy variety.

Englishton. Long flowers of a lovely old-rose color. Very free-flowering.

Grand Duc. Creamy white, streaked and blotched with carmine.

Hogarth. Large flowered. Creamy yellow, with a purple eye. Very fine.

Hubert. Coppery red with a violet shade, very free flowering.

Invincible. (Syn. **Monarch**). Carmine purple, extra large and fine.

Marvellous. Yellow, exterior orange, with a violet eye.

Rossini. Fine deep pink.

Vulcan. Scarlet, shaded orange-red, a striking variety.

Wonder. (Syn. **rosea plena**). Unusual double flower. Brilliant pink.

LYCORIS. Amaryllis family.

Lycoris radiata. Ht. 12-18".

\$2 per 12

Elegant Nerine-like flowers of flaring red. Blooms in autumn before the leaves appear. Free blooming and cuts well. May be left in the ground for several years if kept dry during the summer, and will form large clumps. China and Japan.



MORAEA POLYSTACHYA
(See page 8)

MILLA. Lily family.

Milla biflora. Ht. 12-18". **\$15 per 100.** **\$2.75 per 12**

New introduction from Mexico, where the country people call it Estrellitas or Little Stars. Showy white flowers of a wax-like texture open out to 6 pointed stars with a stripe of soft apple-green on the outside of each petal. Stems wiry, bearing 2-7 flowers each. Pleasantly fragrant, and splendid for cutting, as the hexagonal form of buds and flowers and the outside striping are attractively modernistic and unusual. Summer blooming.

MORAEA. Iris family.

Africa and Australia. Scarce and desirable plants, in form closely resembling Irises. In most species the flowers last only a day, but they are produced in such close succession that the plant is seldom without bloom during its flowering season. Splendid for cutting. Reasonably hardy in California. They want a dry summer baking.

Moraea glaucopis. (Syn. **Iris pavonia.**) Ht. 10-15". **\$1.50 per 12**

The Peacock Iris. Delicious little species, very free-blooming and admirable for pots, borders, or rockeries. Three white petals, each marked with a vivid blue, almost turquoise, peacock's eye. Exciting.

Moraea isopetala. Ht. 6-8". **\$1.50 per 12**

New. Slim and branching plant but of low stature. Flowers similar to those of *M. polystachya* but of a richer, deeper lavender. Especially recommended for rock gardens.



NERINE FILIFOLIA
(See below)

Moraea polystachya. Ht. 18-24".

\$1.50 per 12

New. Slender plants covered with innumerable butterfly flowers of soft mauve pencilled Parma violet. The graceful wiry stems are particularly suited to modern flower arrangements. Blooms continuously for 3-4 months in established clumps.

MUSCARI. Lily family.

Muscari are excellent spring-flowering bulbs worthy of a choice spot in any garden. They increase rapidly and form a lovely carpet in grass, in the rock garden, or under shrubs. They succeed marvellously in any well-drained soil and are perfectly hardy.

Muscari armeniacum. Ht. 6".

75c per 12

Intensely blue bells cluster thickly on stout stems in early spring and for a long time thereafter. Each bulb throws several flower spikes and they are richly fragrant with somewhat the scent of *Prunus mume*. A patch of these looks like the bright spring sky come down to earth. Armenia.

Muscari plumosum. Ht. 6".

75c per 12

An amusing feather-duster of a flower that at the same time is handsome and attractive. Bears masses of fluffy pinkish purple blossoms in May of an improbable form. Splendid for cutting. Absolutely hardy and extremely interesting. Mediterranean regions.

NERINE. Amaryllis family.

Nerine filifolia. Ht. 12-15".

\$1.50 per 12

Charming autumn-blooming plants from Cape Province. The dark pink flowers are borne on stems that overtop the narrow, thread-like foliage. The segments are delicately fringed and the pistils

NERINE (Cont.)

and stamens extending beyond the petals lend an airy grace to the flowers. Exotic, but easy to grow. Evergreen; needs moisture all year. Light soil.

STREPTANTHERA. Iris family.

Streptanthera cuprea. Ht. 6-8". **\$8 per 100** **\$1.50 per 12**

Strikingly unusual and beautiful; the flowers open out flat and are of a brilliant tangerine color with a central eye of petunia violet edged with black. Hardier than Freesias and more brilliant than Sparaxis. Each bulb produces several spikes during March and April. South Africa. Award of Garden Merit, R. H. S.

TRITELEIA. Lily family.

Triteleia uniflora violacea. (Syns. **Milla uniflora** and **Brodiaea uniflora**). **50c per 12**

Produces in early spring Chionodoxa-like, pale violet-blue flowers. It is delightfully fragrant, though the stems when crushed have an odor of garlic. Excellent for the rockery or under shrubs and trees where they spread with great rapidity. They are perfectly hardy in the West. Buenos Ayres.

TULIPA. Lily family.

The wild species of Tulipa are among the finest of bulbous plants. Their informal grace and their clear, bright colors make them admirable subjects for borders, while the flowers, when cut, hold up in water for several days.

Tulipa acuminata. (Syns. **stenopetala** and **cornuta**). Ht. 15". **\$12 per 100** **\$2 per 12**

The Horned Tulip. A bizarre and fascinating pseudo-species with long petals tapering to a thin point, never more than a half inch broad. They are yellow, streaked with orange-scarlet, and are wonderful for cutting, one or two making a striking corsage. Impresses everyone. If you want to arouse your neighbors' attention, try this.

Tulipa chrysantha. Ht. 8". **\$15.00 per 100** **\$2 per 12**

A delightful little Himalayan Tulip bearing dainty flowers. The petals are rich golden yellow inside, shaded cherry-rose outside.

Tulipa Clusiana. Ht. 14". **\$6 per 100** **75c per 12**

Not especially rare, but beautiful when well grown. White flowers with striking red stripes outside the petals, dark blue at the base within. A lovely flower, requiring dry summer heat and a light and well drained soil. Southern Europe.

Tulipa Fosteriana. Ht. 16" **\$20 per 100** **\$2.50 per 12**

There is no Tulipa species more magnificent. The immense, goblet-shaped flowers are of a dazzling scarlet with either a black or a yellow colored base, and appear in late April on stout stems. A clump of T. Fosteriana in bloom is unbelievably brilliant, and is invariably a center of interest in any garden. Bokhara.

Tulipa Eichleri. Ht. 11". **\$1.50 per 12**

A grand Tulip from Turkestan, producing in April large crimson-scarlet flowers with a slight buff shading on the outside of the petals, and a black basal blotch edged yellow. Award of Garden Merit, R. H. S.

Tulipa turkestanica. Ht. 5-6". **\$1 per 12**

A delightful miniature, bearing many flowers from each bulb, creamy-white with a golden center. Turkestan.

BULBS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Tulipa Wilsoniana. Ht. 9". **\$18 per 100 \$2.25 per 12**

New and very rare. A brilliant and unusual shade of vivid vermillion-red with a small blue base. Charming in the rockery or grown in pots. One of our favorites.

WATSONIA. Iris family.

Watsonias are similar to Gladioli in their habit of growth, but the flowers are of a pure trumpet-shape, arranged symmetrically around the long spike. The plants are usually of impressive size, with either evergreen or deciduous foliage. They are splendid for cutting, flower after flower in a long succession opening in water. They are hardy enough to withstand an average California winter. They increase well: we like them better every year.

Watsonia angustifolia. Pink form. Ht. 4 ft. **\$2 per 12**

Profusely blooming, large shell-pink flowers in spikes on stout stems in late spring. A border of these in bloom is an impressive sight. They are lovely when cut and arranged with *Campanula persicifolia*. Evergreen, so needs water through the summer.

Watsonia Dazzler. Ht. 3 ft. **\$2.75 per 12**

This grand new hybrid from Australia bears flowers of glowing orange-red during spring and summer with occasional blooms during the rest of the year. A marvelous color. Good for cutting, and an outstanding addition to the perennial border. Evergreen, needing summer watering.

Watsonia. Mrs. Bullard's hybrids. Ht. 3-6 ft.

We offer a few of this splendid race of hybrids, the result of 20 years of patience and skill on the part of Mrs. J. H. Bullard of Los Angeles. They are grand plants, tall and majestic, bearing as many as 50 or 60 flowers on each stem. Evergreen. Plant 8 - 10 inches apart as they increase rapidly.

Fanny Lyon. Ht. 5-6 ft. **\$1.50 per 12**

Early and profuse with its flowers, an exquisite shade of apricot buff.

J. J. Dean. Ht. 4-5 ft. **\$1.50 per 12**

One of the best for cutting. Large and well formed flowers of a rich rose color with violet tints and a dark throat, arranged rather closely on the stem.

Hybrids Mixed. Ht. 3-6 ft. **\$1 per 12**

Contains a dazzling array of colors; salmon, buff, pink, rose, lilac, mauve, purple, white, together with intermediate tints. An inexpensive sampler of Mrs. Bullard's work.

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS

The plants offered in this catalogue are of the easiest culture, requiring no special equipment, and will grow in any good soil. There are, however, a few things to remember.

The foliage of all bulbs is vitally essential to their well-being and it should therefore never be cut off except in very rare cases when it is desired for decoration. When it has died completely so that a gentle tug will separate it from the bulb it can be removed safely, but not before.

The depth at which to plant is dependent upon the size of the bulb, the quality of the soil—heavy clay on the one hand, or light and sandy on the other—and upon whether the bulbs are to be grown out of doors or in pots. In general, plant the bulb at a depth equal to about three times its height, shallower in heavy soil, deeper in light. If planted in pots, barely cover the bulb. Where the temperature falls to about 25° in winter, plant more deeply and mulch the surface of the ground with a thick layer of straw. If the winters are colder, plant in pots indoors or protect the bed with a frame. If planted in pots, use a light sandy soil with plenty of broken crocks at the bottom of the pot for drainage.

Prepare the bed thoroughly with as much care as you would bestow on a seed bed, and have it ready when the bulbs arrive. With the end of a stick punch holes large enough to allow an open space around the bulb, then drop a handful of river sand into each hole. Place the bulb in position in its nest of sand, and pour enough more sand on it to cover, then finish covering with soil. The sand, while not absolutely necessary, is highly desirable as it will keep the soil about the bulb sweet and well-drained, and it will be of great assistance when the bulbs are to be lifted after a few years.

South African bulbs do not need lime, but *Tulipa* species and the *Irises* offered will do the better for its addition. It should be well worked into the soil. If your soil is very poor you can add manure by digging out the bed to a foot or so deep and making a layer of manure with a layer of soil above so that no manure comes in contact with the bulbs. This, however, is seldom necessary; most soils can grow bulbs satisfactorily without the addition of fertilizer. In any case, do not let manure come in contact with bulbs as it will rot them.

See that all bulbs are well watered during their growing season—winter, and spring—for this is when the flower buds are gathering strength. After blooming, they can be neglected as the foliage dies down. Cultivation is not necessary except for the removal of weeds.

Plant in the sunniest spot available, except where noted in the catalogue description. The rhizomes of *Il. Hoogiana* and *Lortetii* should be barely covered so that they may bake under the summer sun.

With the exceptions noted in the catalogue descriptions, all the bulbs offered need drought during the summer. Where rainy summers prevail the bulbs should be lifted after the foliage has died down and stored in dry sand in a warm spot sheltered from rain. It will be noted that these cultural requirements are fully met by the normal climatic cycle prevailing in the Pacific States.

BULBS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

After a great deal of experiment we have solved the labelling problem in our nursery with Serpent labels. They are narrow strips of soft lead deeply incised with the letters of the botanical name. Lead is the most indestructible of all metals, and it weathers to a dull grey that is unobtrusive in any garden but perfectly legible for literally centuries. As an accommodation to our customers we are prepared to offer these labels made to order with any name incised (up to 24 letters) at the rate of 7 cents each. Correct spelling of botanical names is, of course, guaranteed.



Occasionally we have available a few pedigreed Dachshund puppies from excellent parents. Both sire and dam are registered and papers will be provided with each puppy. If interested in this waggish and affectionate breed let us know and we shall be glad to send further details.



SHIPPING CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alstroemeria Pelegrina alba..... | August to November |
| Babiana species..... | July to October |
| Bessera elegans..... | February to May |
| Chlidanthus fragrans..... | February to May |
| Cyrtanthus lutescens..... | April to November |
| Gladiolus tristis hybrids..... | August to November |
| Iris Hoogiana..... | September and October |
| Iris innominata..... | March to June |
| Iris Lortetii..... | September and October |
| Iris ruthenica..... | March to June |
| Iris tenax..... | March to June |
| Iris unguicularis..... | From June 1st on |
| Ixia species and hybrids..... | August to December |
| Lycoris radiata..... | May to July |
| Milla biflora..... | November to March |
| Moraea species..... | August to November |
| Muscari species..... | September to January |
| Nerine filifolia..... | All year; best in spring |
| Streptanthera cuprea..... | August to October |
| Triteleia uniflora violacea..... | October to December |
| Tulipa species..... | September to November |
| Watsonia species..... | September to November |

Among our greatest pleasures is the meeting of our customers, either by letter or in person. The map below tells how to reach our gardens and we shall be glad to welcome visitors on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. We are located on a hill top with a superb view, but visitors should not expect too much of our gardens. They are really an experimental laboratory and make no claim to landscape architecture.

The last mile is steep and bad, but should offer no difficulty to those experienced with mountain roads. Better not try it in wet weather.

We try to have interesting bulbs in bloom all year, but the best season is from March to June and the worst from July to September. If interested in a particular plant, let us know and we shall be glad to notify you when it comes into bloom.

